AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Canceled)

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2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

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4.   (Canceled)

15   5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

20   7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Canceled)

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9.   (Canceled)

30   10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

5   14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)

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17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Canceled)

15   19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Canceled)

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22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Currently Amended) A method for resolving a shared secret on a data network telephony system, the data network telephony system comprising a plurality of Portable Information Devices (PIDs) coupled to data network telephones within the data network telephony system, the method comprising in combination:

transmitting a suggested shared secret to one or more PIDSs from a first PID;

receiving the suggested shared secret on the one or more PIDs;

~~The method of Claim 19 further comprising~~ rejecting the suggested shared secret by at least one of the one or more PIDs and suggesting an alternative shared secret by the first PID prior to accepting the suggested shared secret at each of the one or more PIDs; and

confirming the suggested shared secret by sending at least one acknowledgement message from the one or more PIDs to the first PID.

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Currently Amended) A method for resolving a shared secret on a data network telephony system, the data network telephony system comprising a plurality of Portable Information Devices (PIDs) coupled to data network telephones within the data network telephony system, the method comprising in combination:

transmitting a suggested shared secret to one or more PIDSs from a first PID;

receiving the suggested shared secret on the one or more PIDs;

~~The method of Claim 19 further comprising~~ transmitting a plurality of suggested shared

45   secrets to at least one of the one or more PIDs by the first PID prior to confirming the

suggested shared secret at the one or more PIDs; and

confirming the suggested shared secret by sending at least one acknowledgement

message from the one or more PIDs to the first PID.

50   26.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25 wherein at least one of the one or

more PIDs selects one of the plurality of suggested shared secrets based on criteria

selected from the group consisting of a suggested shared secret length, a suggested shared

secret alphanumeric character redundancy, a suggested shared secret averaging, a

timestamp of transmission of suggested shared secrets, and a pre-selection of suggested

55   shared secrets.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26 further comprising agreeing

upon a selected suggested shared secret by at least one of the one or more PIDs and

storing the agreed upon selected suggested shared secret.

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28.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27 wherein the at least one of the

one or more PIDs stores the agreed upon selected suggested shared secret in a user

attribute database within the at least one or more PIDs.

65   29.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27 wherein the at least one of the

one or more PIDs store the agreed upon selected suggested shared secret in a private

encryption/authentication field in an address book application located within the at least

one of the one or more PIDs.

70   30.   (Currently Amended) <u>A method for resolving a shared secret on a data network

<u>telephony system, the data network telephony system comprising a plurality of Portable</u>

<u>Information Devices (PIDs) coupled to data network telephones within the data network</u>

<u>telephony system, the method comprising</u> ~~The method of Claim 19 wherein the method~~

~~comprises~~ an electronic business card exchange.

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31.   (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated

by a random-number generator within the first PID.

32.   (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated

80   by a pseudo-random-number generator the first PID.

33.   (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is selected

from the group consisting of encryption/authentication data, and encryption/decryption

data.

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34.   (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein the suggested shared secret is accepted

by at least one of the one or more PIDs by meeting a predetermined length requirement.

35.   (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated

90   by a random-number generator within the first PID.

36.   (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated

by a pseudo-random-number generator the first PID.

95   37.   (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is selected

from the group consisting of encryption/authentication data, and encryption/decryption

data.

38.   (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein the suggested shared secret is accepted

100   by at least one of the one or more PIDs by meeting a predetermined length requirement.

39.   (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated

by a random-number generator within the first PID.

105   40.   (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is generated

by a pseudo-random-number generator the first PID.

41.   (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is selected

from the group consisting of encryption/authentication data, and encryption/decryption

110   data.

42. (New) The method of Claim 30 wherein the suggested shared secret is accepted by at least one of the one or more PIDs by meeting a predetermined length requirement.